

# City schools aim to prepare all their students for college

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The Frankfort Independent school system has set its sights on having 100 percent of students college-ready when they graduate high school.

Right now, closer to two-thirds attend college after graduation, said Superintendent Judith Lucarelli. So last winter she began developing a grant proposal to seek funds for a three-year district-wide plan to help prepare students for "the academic or social readiness or aspirations for their next educational step," according to the proposal.

"I heard from several people when I first came here, and continually ever since, that there are some students we miss with our programs," Lucarelli said. "Since we are a small district, every student is important and their progress is a concern. So even if we

are achieving success for the majority, the needs of the minority are a concern - if any student achieves less than she or he could, we want to do better."

The Frankfort Board of Education approved the draft proposal Monday.

Lucarelli plans to send "Every Student College-Ready: Failure Is Not An Option" to 25 different private foundations.

The project has five components and corresponding activities, which were identified at the district's administrative retreat this summer.

The first is creating a pyramid of support for all students, with the base indicating support for all students and increasing support given to students more at risk of dropping out or failing.

Other components include involving parents more in their children's

education and seeking more input from students, which will in turn help make the curriculum more engaging, another goal.

The last objective is ensuring faculty is prepared, through planning and training, to complete the first four goals.

Lucarelli will serve as the grant project director to ensure each component is completed.

"This places the project at the center of district priorities and ensures that initiatives will be implemented," the proposal said.

The district will also work with the Schlechty Center for Leadership in School Reform, a consortium it joined in August.

The consortium is open to members of the Central Kentucky Educational Cooperative, said Dianne Cobb, See **CITY SCHOOLS, A7**

assistant superintendent, Aug. 16. The goal is to engage students more in the learning process to help them become more productive.

Frankfort is now the charter member of the Kentucky Engagement Network because of its affiliation with Schlechty.

Membership provides the district access to the center's resources, including conferences and on-site consultations, Lucarelli said.

"Student motivation is a huge part of student success," Lucarelli said. "The Schlechty Center helps districts engage students in the work of school, through helping teachers design engaging work and helping administrators learn to supervise such a school. Phil Schlechty is known throughout the country for his success with districts and networks of districts. I am very excited to be part of the new Kentucky School Engagement Network."

If the district receives grant money for this project, the money will be used for implementing the programs it outlines, not for hiring administrators to direct the project, Lucarelli said.

Once the district develops its ideas, trains its staff and implements the plan, the district will use existing resources to continue the plan, Lucarelli said. For example, once the district has new strategies and training sessions in place, it can continue those at little additional cost.

"These are costs that the district would normally undertake so we will be able to continue these activities once the grant has supported them for three years," Lucarelli said.